

Years (1986-87 to 1988-89) and estimated growth for 1989-90.

Significant increase in the rate of growth of per capital consumption and reduction in the percentage of people below poverty line are some of the other positive features of the performance during the Seventh Plan. Decline in the rate of public savings is one of the important negative features of the performance.

Recession in Coir Industry

1311. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coir industry is facing decline/recession;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any plan is under consideration to re-vitalise this industry; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Coir is largely an export oriented industry. The export performance of coir and coir products in recent times has been quite encouraging. During the April, 1991-January, 1992 the export earnings from coir were Rs. 55.97 crores as against Rs. 39.68 crores in the corresponding period of last year. Increase in exports indicate a favourable trend in the coir industry.

(c) and (d). The Coir Board, with the assistance of the Central Government has been implementing various programmes for development of coir industry. Some of the programmes are:-

- (i) Centrally sponsored scheme for co-

operativisation in coir industry.

(ii) Rebate scheme for market development.

(iii) Foreign publicity and market promotion programmes.

(iv) Research and Development Programmes for improving productivity and introduction of modified equipments.

(v) Improving conditions and working environment of workers.

India-Japan Study Committee report

1312. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEEYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese investors are still quite uncertain about India's investment climate as revealed by the India-Japan Study Committee Report as reported in the Times of India dated January 29, 1992;

(b) if so, the details of the requests/demands made by the Japanese investors and

(c) the response of the Union Government to these requests/demands

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The Times of India Report refers to the visit of the Japanese Economic Mission to India in January, 1992 and the Meeting of the India of the Indo-Japanese Business Cooperation Committee which coincided with the Mission's Visit. The Mission's visit was to assess the new investment climate and to explore possibilities of upgrading Japanese investment levels in India. As is normal during such discussions, the members of the said Mission sought clarifications, on certain issues relat-